

INSTRUCTIONS/FEEDBACK FROM 3/20/2007 BRAC MEETING

Change in BRAC Membership

Greg Shaefer, Arch Coal is replacing Jim Sims, Western Business Roundtable
Effective this meeting

Climate Science Symposium (held March 13)

High quality DVD of symposium is available. Requests for DVD were made during the meeting by:

- Mayor David Sakrison
- Mayor Dana Williams
- Steve Sands, Kennecott

Any other BRAC members who would like to receive a copy of the DVD should send a request directly to climatechange@utah.gov.

Climate Policy Symposia (held April 24 and scheduled for May 8)

Rick Sprott will distribute a list of proposed topics and speakers to the BRAC and SWG, as soon as available.

Science Report Process

DEQ has updated website to include current information about the science report process, including the current science report general outline.

Information to be distributed to BRAC members directly (or by reference to the website):

- Written description of the science report process (as provided verbally by Rick Sprott)
- Statement of Work for Dr. Steenburgh and science report process

BRAC members voiced no objection to the science report process outlined by Rick Sprott, and directed DEQ and Dr. Steenburgh to move forward with creating the panel of experts and getting the science report work done.

Additional topic to be considered in science report, if time and information are available:

- Impact of GHG emissions / climate change on frequency and duration of inversions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Relevant data individual BRAC members suggested could be included in the inventory:

- Sequestration in soil mass and other biological processes
- “Natural” contributors to greenhouse gas; total numbers and as a percentage of total emissions
- Production-based numbers
- Contributors to warming other than emissions, e.g. land use

Assumptions underlying the inventory challenged by individual BRAC members:

- Projected electricity impact may be overstated; e.g., existing coal-fired plants are currently at full capacity
- Assuming “business as usual” for power plant construction is not realistic; many process changes are underway that will reduce emissions

Summary slide should refer to “man-made” emissions.

DEQ has added the Pechan report (greenhouse gas emissions inventory) to the website. See http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/Climate_Change/repository.htm

SWG Work on Policy Options

BRAC members who have relevant data or other information to include on the one-page summaries of individual policy options should provide it ASAP by e-mailing to climatechange@utah.gov or contacting Rick Sprott directly.

Specific Policy Options Suggested for Inclusion in SWG Analysis by Individual BRAC Members

- Forestry sequestration: what kind of trees, other than junipers, offer more effective sequestration. Glade Sowards to look at conversion factor of trees.
- Biological sequestration beyond forests, e.g. sequestration in crops, soil mass. E.g. Iowa’s farmland sequestration
- Contributors to warming other than emissions, e.g. land use
- Electricity transmission system integration
- State participation in regional initiatives

Information / Analysis Individual BRAC Members Would Like to See from SWG

- Effect of a reclamation policy on total emissions
- Interrelationship between policy options and baseline (GHG emissions inventory); i.e., how do policy options change the assumptions and conclusions of the inventory?

- Cumulative impact of policy options; e.g., cumulative savings of initiatives
- For each sector, a chart comparing the total magnitude of emissions (as different from reduction in emissions) to cost/ton reduced of individual policy options, so that members can quickly determine “the bang for the buck”
- Reliability of individual policy options; e.g., intermittent nature of wind power, land use / land acreage needed for wind power
- Provide information to prepare Governor and report audience for national discussions on three policy issues:
 - Renewable portfolio standard
 - Carbon tax
 - Cap and trade

SWG Consolidation and Analysis of Policy Options

BRAC agreed with SWG approach of breaking into sector-specific subgroups to consolidate and gather data on individual policy options.

BRAC selected Option 3 of the “Proposed Process Alternatives for BRAC.” SWG was directed to “roll up” the 200+ discrete policy options into 50-60 options, and present the “rolled up” list at the next BRAC meeting. The “roll up” process should be transparent, so that BRAC members can follow each of the 200+ policy options from original listing to “rolled up” listing. The “rolled up” example given for the RCI sector demonstrates that transparency.

Timeline for the final report to the Governor remains essentially the same. The objective is to identify policy recommendations that are broadly supported, with adequate documentation to support legislative action in the next session as appropriate.

By July 1st, SWG will provide the BRAC with a draft short list of policy recommendations and available analytics. The policy options will be arranged into some sort of matrix to streamline the decision-making process.

Rick Sprott agreed to provide an answer to Rep. Tilton’s question: If we implemented all identified policy options, what percentage of total emissions would be reduced?

Proposed Principles to Guide BRAC’s Discussion of Public Policy Options

Greg Schaefer distributed a document entitled “Principles to Guide the BRAC’s Discussion of Public Policy Options Regarding Climate Variability,” which was developed independently by some individual members of the BRAC. He indicated that the “business and economic interests” on the BRAC will be using these principles to inform their decisions on individual policy options for inclusion in the final report to the Governor.

For Next Meeting:

Notice of next meeting date and location will be distributed ASAP. Agenda items:

- “Rolled up” list of policy options, with policy options most likely to be implemented flagged
- Policy option-specific analytics available at that point